



THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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Egypt army topples Islamist president

CAIRO (AFP) - The Egyptian army toppled Islamist President Mohamed Morsi on Wednesday after a week of bloodshed that killed nearly 50 people as millions took to the streets to demand an end to his turbulent single year of rule.

The announcement, made on state television by Morsi's own defence minister, armed forces chief General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, drew a rapturous welcome from thousands of protesters who have camped out on the streets of Cairo for days.

Sisi laid out details of the roadmap for a political transition, saying the Islamist-drafted constitution would be frozen and presidential elections held early, without specifying when.

The armed forces would "remain far away from politics," he stressed.

The din rang out immediately, and continued for hours, as tens of thousands of people took to the streets of the capital to celebrate, cheering, whistling, letting

off firecrackers and honking car horns in joyous scenes.

"It's a new historical moment. We get rid of Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood," said one celebrator, Omar Sherif.

In an amateur video posted online, Morsi declared "I am the elected president of Egypt" and urged people to "defend this legitimacy".

But the opposition Congress Party of former Arab League chief Amr Mussa said "this is not a coup".

Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected president, came under massive pressure in the run-up to Sunday's anniversary of his maiden year in office, with his opponents accusing him of failing the 2011 revolution by concentrating power in the hands of his Muslim Brotherhood.

The embattled 61-year-old proposed a "consensus government" as a way out of the country's worst crisis since the 2011 uprising ended three decades of authoritarian rule by Hosni Mubarak.

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Aruba Int'l Film Festival opens with a star-studded parade of guest talent



Paul Verhoeven and MC Jorgen Raymann

The 4th annual Aruba International Film Festival, (AIFF) hosted a glittering red carpet premiere on Tuesday evening at the Palm Beach Plaza Shopping Center. A cavalcade of visiting film stars, directors and producers made their way to the stage to say hello to fans and film fanatics led by iconic Director Paul Verhoeven, known for his blockbuster hits, "RoboCop," "Total Recall," "Starship Troopers," and the modern film noir "Basic Instinct." Welcoming the visiting celebrities as master of ceremonies was one of the famous Dutch television personalities to emerge from the Dutch Caribbean, Jorgen Raymann, an extremely popular comedian and late night TV host in Europe.

The opening film of the festival was Verhoeven's "Tricked," an innovative, interactive experiment, where film fans and aspiring filmmakers were invited to submit script suggestions via the Internet. One of the film's producers, Rene Mioch, also a noted writer and actor, is on island for the regional premiere of the film. He explained they received an enormous, unexpected response to the interactive concept, with "over 750 scripts within the first few days." A

short documentary accompanies the screening of the film, detailing the process, which

resulted in several independent, amateur versions of the film being produced by those who got involved, some good enough to garner theatrical release in Europe.

Also gracing the red carpet was noted actress and AIFF veteran Virgina Madsen, whose film "The Magic of Belle Isle," opened last year's festival. Her latest starring turn, "The Hot Flashes," with Booke Shields, Daryl Hannah and Wanda Sykes, will close this year's event with screenings on Friday and Saturday, July 5 and 6.

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NBA Chamion Mario Chalmers vacations on Aruba



PALM BEACH - NBA champion Miami Heat basketball player Mario Chalmers is currently vacationing in Aruba with his family and friends. They are in Aruba to celebrate his mother's birthday. The Aruba Marriott wishes Mr. Chalmer's mom a very happy birthday and hopes that the group enjoys their stay on our one happy island. Chalmers deserves a little R&R after helping his team clinch the NBA title last month in game 7 against the San Antonio Spurs.



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Aruba Int'l Film Festival opens with a star-studded parade of guest talent

Continued from pg 1



Jonathan Vieira with actress Hilda Abrahamz

Maria Conchita Alonso, a huge star in Venezuela, who made the leap to Hollywood in films such as "Predator 2," "The Running Man," "Colors," and this year's "Lords of



Virginia Madsen returns

Salem," was also on hand to add glamour to the event and sign autographs. She is in "Femme: Women Healing the World," by French filmmaker Emmanuel Itier, which screened last night, and par-



Maria Conchita Alonso signs autographs for an appreciative fan

ticipated in the special master classes with the director yesterday morning. The subject was producing a film on a shoe string budget and titled "The Frugal Frenchman."

AIFF Founder Jonathan Vieira introduced his co-producers of the festival, Programming Director Aaron Hose and Industry Events Director Rebecca Roos to the audience. The trio is very pleased to again present this stimulating event for movie lovers and aspiring filmmakers. This year, they will show 40 films from around the globe at the Caribbean Cinemas, which will also host several informative dialogs with visiting stars and successful filmmakers. 48 actors, directors, scriptwriters and producers are on Aruba for this year's festival, the greatest number they have hosted to date.

Films are divided into five categories: International Features, big-budget and independent feature length films, Doxifocus, a show case of award-winning feature-length documentaries, and International Shorts, something new to the festival, which includes films under 50 minutes, in diverse genres.

The remaining two categories focus on Aruban and regional filmmakers. They are the Caribbean Spotlight Series, a competition of feature-length fictional and documentary films, which will



AIFF Producers with PBP management

be judged and receive awards. The other entries to also be judged are those in Aruba Flavor, short films by island filmmakers, which will also receive an audience award by popular vote. The Aruba Flavor films will be showing on Thursday and Friday, and islanders are encouraged to attend and vote for their favorite film.

This year, tickets to all the screenings are only 10 Aruban florins (\$5.57 U.S.) The producers are very proud of the remarkably diverse selection of submissions they have received and relish the opportunity to present some fine commercial and independent films to island audiences, they would likely never see screened in local theaters. Entries feature the creative work of filmmakers from

three African countries, Laos, India, China, Paraguay, Haiti, Mexico, Australia, Peru, and many other nations, all shown in their native language with English subtitles. They provide interesting insights into exotic cultures. There are several commercial releases from the U.S., including the international premier of the new Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson vehicle, "Empire State."

A full schedule of all AIFF screenings and dialogs with visiting filmmakers can be found on their website www.arubainternationalfilm-festival.com Tickets for all events can be purchased via their website, at their office in the Palm Beach Plaza, or at the Caribbean Cinemas box office for screenings only.

By Rosalie Klein

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Aruba Scholarship Foundation presents recipients for 2011-2012



Margaret Flores signs

The board members and volunteers of the Aruba Scholarship Foundation, ASF, which is dedicated to assisting Aruban students wishing to study abroad in nations other than Holland, hosted their annual check distribution on Tuesday afternoon, July 2, in the conference room of Garage Cordia, the Toyota distributorship, in Camacuri.

This is the 26th year the ASF has provided financial assistance to promising and motivated young students. This year Board President Etley F.R. Lasten was joined by Brian Marchena, Thais Nierop-Kappel and Clyde Harms in presenting the scholarship checks. Their efforts will help four deserving

young Arubans to their education in Florida over the coming year.

This year, there were four recipients, out of 15 applicants, who fulfilled the requirements to earn a scholarship. Clyde Harms explained they would have awarded more, but ASF was able to get a large number of graduates into universities under the cooperative Latin American/Caribbean Scholarship program (LAC). Aruban students attending the University of Central Florida receive a 70% discount on tuition as they are charged the same tuition as students who are residents of the state of Florida, once they have been accepted to the school, which substantially

reduces the costs of education. This year's scholarship recipients will be attending schools in Florida other than UCF.

Scholarship winners are Margaret Carla Flores, who will study General Psychology at University of Southern Florida, USF. Continuing her education in Hospitality Management at FIU in Miami is Godilieve Olibrice. The ASF committee was proud to announce that Godilieve had perfect 4.0 grades across the board and made the President's List. Another scholarship holder who made the list is Roan Held, achieving a 3.8 GPA while studying Marketing at Valencia College in Orlando. His proud mother was present to

accept his scholarship check. Finally, Paola Franchesca Lara Adames is studying Hospitality Management at Rosen College at USF.

Margaret and Mrs. Held signed the ASF scholarship contract when accepting their checks.

These contracts state that the students must maintain at least a "B" (3.0) grade point average, and will return to Aruba to apply the skills they have learned, for at least a time equivalent to their studies that were financed by the ASF. Clyde Harms pointed out that most of the ASF students far exceed their required grade point average.

Clyde Harms explained that the ASF program, which excludes financing for students attending university in Holland, is to "encourage diversity in the island youth in their experience and knowledge of the world." They have, in the past, awarded scholarships to students attending schools in Latin America and Europe.

Florida is a popular education destination for Aruban youth and their parents as it is one of the most easily accessible places offering numerous quality institutions of higher learning. ASF is funded strictly through contributions from private business, professional institutions and fundraising efforts.

By Rosalie Klein



Mrs. Held accepting the check from Clyde Harms and Etley Lasten



The ASF Board

Buster's Garage welcomes the athletes of Aruba Hi-Winds 2013



Owner Rusty with Hi-Winds organisers



Rusty, the proprietor of one of Aruba's most popular sports bars and eateries, Buster's Garage, adjacent to the Trop Casino, is no stranger to the Hi Winds crowd. He feels it is very appropriate that a sports bar should host the opening welcome event for the many athletes that travel from the U.S., Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America to compete in what is considered one of the top Pro/Am windsurfing and kitesurfing competitions in the region.

Along with the many competitors of all ages, he had the pleasure of the company of Amayra Boekhoudt and Paula Ochoa of the Aruba Tourism Authority, who are chaperon-

ing the athletes from Brazil and Venezuela who have traveled to the island to compete.

Amayra reports a record number of athletes registered for the various events that began yesterday morning with the Slalom races along Palm Beach and kitesurfing competitions at Boca Grande, on the eastern end of the island.

Prior to the first day of racing, the contestants took an evening to relax and socialize with their fellow athletes, where a most congenial ambience reigned. Dedicated competitors on the water, they form a cohesive community during peripheral events. All enjoyed Buster's famous sports bar fare, ribs, chicken wings and other finger foods, which they all agreed, were "finger liking good!"

The Aruba Hi-Winds events will be taking place all day, with headquarters at Fisherman's Huts, north of the Marriott resorts. Spectators are welcome, and at the end of each day of racing their host a happy hour with plenty of ice cold Amstel Bright beer at great prices.

Over the weekend, they have planned non-stop beach events, including soccer games, bike races, fashion shows and

top local bands and DJ's. There will be free kitesurfing air show on Saturday night beginning at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to

enjoy the races and events and meet some of the greats of the sports.

Photos depict the fun evening.

By Rosalie Klein





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Czech 'miraculously' survives after falling under subway train

PRAGUE (AFP) - A Czech woman beat the odds this week in the Prague underground when she fell under an oncoming train but then crawled out from between carriages unscathed, police said Tuesday.

The young woman -- who appeared to be dozing on her feet -- fell off the platform into a deep groove between the subway rails, saving her from the impact of the undercarriage zooming by overhead.

"A video recording shows that the woman waiting for the underground could hardly keep her balance. She staggered and fell straight onto the tracks," police spokeswoman Eva Kropacova said in a statement on its website.

"Miraculously the woman stood up, dusted her trousers and walked off," she said, adding that the woman refused both medical treatment and a breathalyser test, telling police she was "merely tired".

The accident occurred early Monday.

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UNITED STATES, New York : Fatoumata Sangaray, age 4, waves the United States flag during a naturalization ceremony July 2, 2013 in New York. 150 immigrants, as part of similar events nationwide to mark the July Fourth holiday to the oath of citizenship.

AFP PHOTO

Finland gives William and Kate condoms as baby present

LONDON (AFP) - Finland has given a special baby box to Prince William and his wife Catherine ahead of the birth of their first child, with the contents ranging from infant clothing to bra pads and even condoms, officials said Wednesday.

The maternity package is given to all expectant couples in Finland by the social security agency KELA and includes romper suits, snow-suits and booties in neutral

colours that could suit a boy or a girl.

It also contains bedding and childcare products, while the colourful box doubles up as a cot.

A spokeswoman for the royal couple at Kensington Palace said: "We were delighted to receive the very kind gift of the maternity package from the Finnish government."

"It was a very thoughtful gesture and we're very grateful for it."

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Egypt army topples Islamist president

Continued from pg 1

Opposition leader Mohamed ElBaradei, former head of the UN nuclear watchdog, and the heads of the Coptic Church and Al-Azhar, Sunni Islam's highest seat of learning, sat alongside the armed forces chief as he announced Morsi's overthrow on state television.

Adly Mansour, "the head of the Supreme Constitu-

tional Court will take the oath before the court's general assembly," he said without providing a date.

"Early presidential elections will be held and the head of the Supreme Constitutional Court will manage the affairs of the state during the transitional phase until the new presidential elections."

US asks Bolivia to extradite Snowden if he arrives: FM

LA PAZ (AFP) - The US government has asked Bolivia to extradite fugitive US intelligence leaker Edward Snowden should he arrive on Bolivian soil, the country's foreign minister David Choquehuanca said Wednesday.

Bolivian President Evo Morales's plane was diverted late Tuesday to Vienna on suspicion that Snowden was on board, sparking a row between La Paz and several European countries.

"The United States sent us a note in which it asks for the extradition of its citizen Edward Snowden should he be in Bolivia," Choquehuanca told Telesur television.

The minister said he had not yet read the note in its entirety, and that La Paz would "review the entire diplomatic note before deciding."

Choquehuanca said he believed the note was no accident, as "the United States believed Snowden was on the presidential plane" with Morales.

In Washington, the State Department said it had asked

that Snowden be returned from any country where he might land or attempt to transit, without naming countries.

"We've broadly asked for Mr. Snowden to be returned from any country where he may be, where he may land, where he may transit," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters.

The spokeswoman noted that the United States has an extradition treaty with Bolivia.

A State Department official confirmed that Washington still believed Snowden was in the airport in Moscow and had not left for Bolivia.

US orders staff to evacuate Cairo embassy

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States on Wednesday ordered most of its personnel to evacuate its embassy in Cairo leaving just a skeleton staff behind, only hours after the Egyptian military ousted president Mohamed Morsi.

Amid fast-moving events in Egypt, a travel advisory confirmed that "the Depart-

Mandela children remains exhumed after family rift

MTHATHA (AFP) - The remains of three of Nelson Mandela's children were exhumed Wednesday to be returned to his childhood village following a bitter family feud over the ailing anti-apartheid hero's final resting place.

The public row comes as the 94-year-old former political prisoner, who became South Africa's first black president, lies critically ill in what

is now his fourth week in hospital.

In dramatic scenes that unfolded in front of the world's media, a sheriff forced open the gates to the estate of Mandela's grandson Mandla with a pickaxe to allow three hearses to enter the property, where the disputed remains were moved in 2011, allegedly without the family's consent.

It came hours after a court in the nearby city of Mthatha ordered Mandla, 39, to immediately move the graves back to Qunu about 30 kilometres (20 miles) away, where Mandela grew up. Judge Lusindiso Pakade described the grandson's actions as "scandalous".

"The exhumation has been concluded now. The remains are being transported to the mortuary in Mthatha," said police spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Mzukisi Fatyela. "They will be kept there until

the burial tomorrow (Thursday)."

Mandela has expressed his wish to be buried at his rural homestead at Qunu, and his daughters want to have the children's remains returned so they can be buried together.

More than a dozen relatives of the revered leader, including his wife Graca Machel, two of his daughters and several grandchildren, took Mandla to court over the dispute.

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International News

Investigators stand by TWA explosion theory

ASHBURN (AFP) - US aviation investigators stood by their verdict Tuesday that a fuel tank explosion brought down TWA Flight 800 in 1996, ahead of a documentary that revives speculation of a missile hit.

Some 230 passengers and crew died when the Boeing 747, en route to Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, exploded in the night sky off Long Island, shortly after it took off from New York's John F. Kennedy airport.

"TWA Flight 800," a documentary to run on US cable channel Epix on July 17, the 17th anniversary of the disaster, reopens the argument that the jumbo jet was blown out of the sky by a missile.

But senior officials at the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said a missile was just one of many theories that were thoroughly examined during an exhaustive four-year investigation.

The fuselage of the ill-fated airliner, painstakingly reassembled at the NTSB academy where it now serves as a training aid, shows "no pitting, cratering, gas-washing or petalizing" -- all telltale signs of a missile strike, he said.

Streaks of light, reported by dozens of witnesses on the ground, were in fact blazing fragments of the Boeing 747 falling nearly 15,000 feet (5,000 meters) into the Atlantic Ocean, Kolly said.

Moreover, investigators conducted a raft of surface-to-air missile simulations, but concluded that it was "extremely unlikely" that Flight 800 had been hit by such a device, he

added.

The NTSB maintains that TWA Flight 800 was brought down by a fuel vapor explosion, "most likely" ignited by an electrical short circuit, within an empty fuel tank between the wings and under the main passenger cabin.

Kolly did not comment on a petition now before the NTSB asking for the investigation to be reopened. The board is due to rule on the request later this summer.

But, referring to the upcoming documentary, he said: "I am upset about bringing this back up... It's just not a good thing."

Bolivia files UN complaint after president's jet diverted

LA PAZ (AFP) - Bolivia on Wednesday lodged a complaint with the United Nations and planned another to the UN Human Rights Commission against several European countries that closed their airspace to the plane carrying President Evo Morales.

"As a government, we are filing complaints worldwide," said Vice President and acting head of state Alvaro Garcia.

"We have already made the complaint to the United Nations and in the next few hours, we are making a complaint to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights," Garcia said, over what he called an international rights violation that put the president's life at risk.

Bolivia said Morales was flying from Moscow back to Bolivia when his plane was forced to land in Vienna on suspicion fugitive US leaker Edward Snowden may be on board.

The flight had originally taken off late Tuesday from Moscow, where 30-year-old Snowden has been holed up for days, just hours after Morales said his country would consider giving him political asylum.

While in flight, Bolivia said the pilot learned Portugal refused to allow the plane to land for refueling, and then France, Italy and Spain banned the plane from entering its airspace.

On the ground in Vienna, police searched the plane and found no sign of the US fugitive,

and the European countries reauthorized the use of their airspace.

The diversion has sparked outrage from other Latin American leaders, with Argentine President Cristina Kirchner calling the incident "very humiliating."

In a series of tweets on her official account, the president said, "they are definitely all crazy. The head of state and his plane have total immunity."

Kirchner said she had spoken to Uruguayan President Jose Mujica, who was equally outraged.

And Organization of American States chief Jose Miguel Insulza demanded an explanation about the incident, which he said endangered the president's life.

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Health & Living

Costa Rica issues health alert over dengue

SAN JOSE (AFP) - Costa Rica on Tuesday declared a health alert due to a dengue fever outbreak which has claimed three lives and infected about 12,000 people so far this year, authorities said.

Health Minister Daisy Corrales said the infection rate was four times worse than that of 2012.

"We have to warn the population so that they do not end up in emergency situations," she stressed.

Corrales warned that authorities were concerned that

three dengue strains were in circulation heading into the rainy season, a prime time for mosquitoes that transmit the disease.

The worst outbreaks of the disease have been in towns on the Pacific coast, popular with sun-and-sand vacationers.

In Parrita for example, there have been 525 infections in the past five weeks.

Dengue is caused by a virus transmitted by mosquitoes which breed in standing water -- like puddles or planters.



RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Medical and health workers protest against the working conditions in the public hospitals and the hiring of foreign doctors for the SUS health care system, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday.



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Britain unveils plans to charge migrants for healthcare

LONDON (AFP) - Britain announced plans on Wednesday to charge migrants hundreds of pounds a year to access its state-run National Health Service (NHS), in a bid to clamp down on so-called health tourism.

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt also proposed to stop giving visitors from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) free access to general practitioners (GPs).

Ministers admitted however that they have no idea of the true cost and impact of migrants on the NHS, and have commissioned an independent audit to report back in September.

The proposals, which have been put out to consultation, are tied to a wider clampdown on immigration by Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative-led coalition government.

It also published plans on

Wednesday to make landlords check the immigration status of tenants, with the goal of making it more difficult for illegal migrants to stay in Britain.

Under the healthcare changes, the government insisted no-one will be denied emergency care and said the treatment of infectious diseases and sexually transmitted infections would remain free.

However, health professionals warned the changes could still pose a public health risk by deterring ill patients from seeking treatment.

The National AIDS Trust (NAT) said the plans also threatened to undermine years of work to encourage marginalised at-risk groups to access HIV testing and treatment.

People visiting Britain for less than six months already have to pay for routine hospital care but the changes would

mean they also have to pay to visit a GP.

Students and workers staying more than six months would be charged a set fee of at least £200 (235 euros, \$300) a year to cover NHS costs when they apply for their visas. This is in addition to taxes used to fund the health service.

The government also wants to boost efforts by the NHS to recoup the cost of treating patients from EEA countries -- the European Union plus Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland.

The health service currently writes off about £12 million a year that could be claimed back from EEA governments, the Department of Health said.

Countries such as Russia and Australia, which have reciprocal healthcare agreements with Britain, will not be affected by the changes.

Sci-Tech

US blacklists Myanmar general over N. Korea arms deals

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States placed a Myanmar general on its sanctions blacklist Tuesday for arms deals with North Korea that violated the UN Security Council embargo on buying weapons from Pyongyang.

Weeks after a landmark visit to Washington by Myanmar President Thein Sein celebrated the thaw in relations, the US Treasury named Lieutenant General Thein Htay, the head of Myanmar's Directorate of Defense Industries, for the sanctions.

The Treasury said the general was involved in buying North Korean military goods despite his government's support for the Security Council ban.

It said he acted on behalf of the directorate, a Myanmar military agency that was placed on the US sanctions blacklist in July 2012 for arms deals with North Korea.

The Treasury stressed in a statement that the Myanmar government, which until 2011 endured years of isolation and condemnation by the international community for rights abuses, was not targeted by the sanctions.

The Treasury noted that the Myanmar government last November said it would "abide by" the UN Security Council resolution banning the purchase of military equipment and support from North Korea.

North Korea's arms trade is an "important source of revenue" to build "its proscribed nuclear and missile programs", it added.



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US spent \$630,000 to 'buy' Facebook fans

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US State Department was Wednesday under fire for spending \$630,000 over two years to win millions of "likes" on its Facebook pages at a time of severe government austerity measures.

A scathing report by the department's independent watchdog took the coordinators of its social media outreach policy to task saying it needed to "direct its digital advertising to specific public diplomacy goals."

The report by the Office of the Inspector General found that two advertising campaigns

launched in 2011 and 2012 cost some \$630,000 with the "goal of building global outreach platforms for engagement with foreign audiences by increasing the number of fans... on four thematic Facebook properties."

"Many in the bureau criticize the advertising campaigns as 'buying fans' who may have once clicked on a post or 'liked' a photo but have no real interest in the topic and have never engaged further," read the report released late last month.

Although each of the four

thematic pages run by the Bureau of International Information Programs managed to attract some 2.5 million fans by mid-March, only about 2 percent of those actually actively engaged with the sites by 'liking' topics or sharing information posted on it.

"Many postings had fewer than 100 comments or shares; the most popular ones had several hundred," the report said.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the report had been taken seriously and vowed most its recommendations would be imple-

mented before the start of the 2014 fiscal year in October.

"Online advertising has significantly decreased. It's now at \$2,500 a month," she said, adding that "still allows us to reach out and communicate with a wide range of individuals living overseas."

The State Department has embraced the wide outreach made possible through social media, but is still developing guidelines for how such sites as Facebook and Twitter should be used in the world of diplomacy.



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FINANCE US oil closes above \$100 on Egypt, inventories



NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - US oil prices Wednesday settled above \$100 a barrel for the first time in more than a year, bolstered by concerns over Egypt and a surprisingly large decline in US crude stockpiles.

US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for August delivery rose \$1.64 to \$101.24 a barrel. The last time oil closed above \$100 dollars was May 3, 2012.

European benchmark Brent futures for August closed \$1.76 higher at \$105.76.

The political crisis in Egypt continued to propel crude prices higher as traders worried about its impact on the oil-rich Middle East. There were more mass protests in Egypt as an army deadline passed for President Mohamed Morsi to step down.

Late Wednesday, Egypt's army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi ousted Morsi and declared the head of the Supreme Constitutional Court caretaker leader.

While not a major crude exporter, Egypt is home to key oil chokepoints like the Suez Canal and the Sumed Pipeline.

"There is a real concern in the oil market about the situation in Egypt, and whether the unrest could spread to the rest of the Middle East," said Michael McCarthy, chief market strategist at CMC Markets in Sydney.

"In fact, it's not just Egypt, dealers are closely watching the situation in Libya and Syria as well," he said.

Oil prices were also boosted by the weekly US government

oil market report that showed crude stocks declined by 10.3 million barrels, much sharper than the 2.3 million barrel drop expected by analysts in a Dow Jones Newswires survey.

Stocks of gasoline and distillate fuels also came in lower than expected.

The weekly petroleum report was "quite bullish," said Kyle Cooper, managing partner at IAF Advisors in Houston.

Still Cooper called the report an "aberration" after a spate of recent bearish weekly inventory reports. The latest stockpiles report covers a period when some Canadian exports to the US have been halted due to pipeline outages; those exports will soon resume normal deliveries.

Cooper said the oil market is in a bullish mood and predicted crude could soon retreat.

"This has been driven by money flows, not fundamentals," Cooper said.

In recent weeks, WTI has gained ground on Brent as more pipeline and rail capacity has allowed more crude to move from the crude-glutted middle of the US to oil refineries along the coasts.

The spread between the two crudes is now \$4.52, down from more than \$20 a couple of years ago.

Price increases of Brent have lagged WTI recently as US crudes have displaced Brent crude on the East Coast of the US and as European North Sea output has increased over the

last year, said Robert Johnston, an analyst at Eurasia Group. But Johnston predicted the

gap between the two crudes would widen again as US output rises. The Brent-WTI

spread "probably will not reach the magnitude seen previously," Johnston said.

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Ex-banker hands in list of French 'big names' with Swiss accounts

PARIS (AFP) - A former official with Swiss bank Reyl et Cie who claimed he knew of 15 French politicians and "big names" with undeclared bank accounts in Switzerland said Wednesday he had submitted the list to investigators.

Pierre Condamin-Gerbier was a witness before a parliamentary commission investigating former budget minister Jerome Cahuzac, who resigned in disgrace in March over an undeclared foreign bank account said to contain around 600,000 euros (\$770,000). Cahuzac is now facing charges of tax fraud.

"The list and information... were transmitted yesterday to French justice," Condamin-Gerbier, who worked at Reyl et Cie between 2006 and 2010, told the commission.

He had earlier said the list contained a number of well-known names.

"I can simply say that very big names in French politics figure on this list, people whose faces we are used to seeing on television. These are personalities far better known to the public than Cahuzac," he told newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche last month.

Condamin-Gerbier has also said the family of a serving minister had funds in Switzerland for several years.



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W	E	S	T	R	Y	E	K	E	G	S

Portugal government coalition seeks end to political crisis

LISBON (AFP) - Portugal's governing centre-right coalition on Wednesday sought a solution to a political crisis caused by the shock resignation of two ministers over its bailout reforms which has sparked cries of concern from European authorities as financial markets took fright.

Stock markets fell and bond

yields rose as the crisis fed fears of a new wave of instability from the eurozone's debt-laden periphery.

Alarm spread after Foreign Minister Paulo Portas of the junior partner in the governing coalition, the small conservative CDS-PP party, resigned on Tuesday evening, a day after the shock departure of finance

minister Vitor Gaspar.

The crisis came at a delicate time as Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho tries to fulfil the terms of the 2011 bailout that rescued Portugal from financial collapse.

Portuguese media reported Wednesday that the agriculture and social security ministers who belong to Portas' CDS-PP

party were also likely to quit but chairman of the party's congress, Luis Queiro, said the two had decided to stay on in their posts.

European officials urged the premier to settle the uncertainty as observers speculated that President Anibal Cavaco Silva would call a snap election.

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Belgium's King Albert II to abdicate after two-decade reign



file photo: Soon to be King, Prince Philippe and his family

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Belgium's King Albert II yesterday announced his abdication in favour of his son Philippe after two decades at the helm of the tiny country.

"I intend to abdicate on July 21," the sovereign said in a

speech broadcast to the nation from the royal palace. "Prince Philippe is well prepared. He and Princess Mathilde have my entire confidence."

"So it is with serenity and confidence that I announce I intend to abdicate on July 21,"

he added.

In his short speech to the nation, read first in French then in Flemish, Belgium's two main languages, the 79-year-old monarch said he was too tired and too frail to continue to reign.

"I am at an age never attained by predecessors," he said. "My age and my health do not allow me to exercise my duties as I would like."

As the second son of King Leopold III (1901-1983) and Astrid of Sweden (1905-1935), Albert was not destined to reign but was forced to ascend to the throne in 1993 on the death of his older brother King Baudouin, who passed



file photo 2012: King Albert with Queen Paola

away without an heir.

His decision to step down is the first abdication in the history of Belgium. The country gained independence from the Netherlands in 1831.

As monarch, Albert's duties include representing Belgium at home and abroad on state visits, trade missions, and at high-level international meetings as well as taking an interest in Belgian society, culture

and enterprise.

His son Philippe, 53, will be the seventh king from the house of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha - now known simply as the royal house of Belgium -- to have headed the constitutional monarchy since independence.

Six kings from the house of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha -- now known simply as the royal house of Belgium -- have headed the constitutional monarchy since independence.

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Spend a fun evening with friends at Barney's

A few months ago, Palm Beach welcomed a cozy new place that offers good food, great prices and a uniquely warm, welcoming ambiance that makes patrons feel as if they are visiting with friends rather than just eating out. Even the name, "Barney's", which was inspired by Barney Rubble of the Flintstones, is an expression of the good humor of its owners and your hosts, Ron and Elina.

Ron and Elina have a very congenial division of labor; he enjoys being bartender and playing around with his "cocktail of the day" while she sees to it that everyone is well satisfied with their meal. Chef Jan is in the kitchen doing his magic; patrons praise their spicy Firecracker Shrimp appetizer and mushrooms stuffed with escargot, priced at \$9.50 and \$8.50, or the Smoked Trout Fillet for a real gourmet treat.

They are particularly popular for their "Build Your Own Barney Burger" using specially imported organic



A place where you feel like you are with friends

beef from Holland, guaranteed to have been raised without steroids or antibiotics, only \$9.50 with fries and coleslaw. Patrons are handed a special hamburger checklist, which features a full menu of toppings, sauces and cheeses to customize your order to create the ideal burger. One can also opt for a

second or third hamburger patty for a very nominal cost.

High end items on the menu, such as the Seafood Pasta, are only \$20.50. They also have a kid's menu with favorites such as a Kid's Burger, chicken fingers and Mac & Cheese; most items are only \$4. One regular described the place as particu-

larly "kid-friendly," with Elina, a mother herself, having devised a number of methods to keep young ones entertained. The menu has a range to please patrons who are in the mood for something simple while other can be indulgent gourmands.

Tuesday through Saturday

evenings they have specialty nights at bargain rates. Tuesday is Schnitzel Night, with a choice five different kinds of schnitzel with sauces and toppings, only \$17.50. Wednesday is fresh grouper, prepared any of five ways, with veggies and side dish, \$19.50. Thursday enjoy unlimited ribs done three ways honey, smoked or BBQ, for \$17.50 with salad, slaw and fries. Saturday means endless rib eye steak with coleslaw and fries for \$19.50. Friday evening ends the work week with Karaoke Night, a convivial and fun evening when islanders kick back and let loose their inner rock star.

Barney's is located just next to the huge supermarket on the Palm Beach/Noord road, not far from the gas station. They are open from 5:00 to 11:00 PM and closed on Mondays. Check out their full menu at <http://www.barneysaruba.com> or call 586-5420 for reservations and directions.

La Linda Department Store-where Aruba shops!



Calman and Anna Hochman

--Though Aruba has its share of designer brand stores and shopping malls, ask almost any islander where they shop, and they will likely tell you "La Linda." Spread out over several specialty stores on the Caya Betico Croes, La Linda was Aruba's first and foremost department stores, where, for decades, one could find anything and everything, and after more than 70 years, still can make that claim.

It is also a distinctly family operation, with the personal touch and supervision of the Hochmans, who take their reputation for stocking "the best quality for the best price" very se-

riously. It all started with Calman Hochman, a Jewish Polish immigrant who opened his first small shop with his Aruban wife Anna, carrying "a little bit of everything that anyone could need." This was before WWII, when the present head of the company, Jaime, hadn't even been born yet. Many of their sales help have also been with the store for over two decades, and "it is very much like family here," he admits. Their loyal patrons also look forward to being helped by shop girls who have become friends, knowing they will get great and honest service.

To this day, La Linda is particularly known for its huge fabrics and notions department, the first destination for many on an island where making your own clothes is still an everyday practice. Without question, the store offers the greatest diversity of selection in nearly every department, and they have now consolidated them all into one store; four floors containing a wealth of choices in clothing for men, women and children, house wares, bedding, sporting goods, luggage, shoes, jewelry, decorative items and more.

"The present store is a work in progress," asserts Jaime, as they continue to renovate and enlarge what had been only the men's store and warehouse in the past. Normally closed for a 2 hour lunch/siesta in the old island way, shoppers will soon find it open daily for the entire day, from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM, as they are on Saturday's, with a bright, charming eatery installed on the top floor.

from all over the world, always with an eye towards quality. They pay particular attention to their Women's Department specializing in over-sized garments, stocking larger sizes exhibiting distinctive dash and style.

For travelers who have perhaps lost their luggage, they can offer a quick fix for all the family which won't break your budget, including some very stylish new suitcases.



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SPORTS

at Wimbledon: Djokovic, Murray remain on course for final showdown

LONDON (AFP) - Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray remain on course for a Wimbledon final showdown after the top two seeds took contrasting routes into the last four on Wednesday.

Djokovic will face Juan Martin del Potro for a place in Sunday's final as the world number one clinched his 13th consecutive Grand Slam last four spot with a 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, 6-3 victory over Tomas Berdych.

The 2011 champion is yet to drop a set in his five matches at this year's tournament and is now just two wins away from lifting the All England Club trophy for the second time.

Del Potro beat Spanish fourth seed David Ferrer 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) after surviving a nasty fall in the opening game, which left the Argentine eighth seed needing several minutes of treatment on a left knee already heavily bandaged.

In the other half of the draw, Murray showed impressive re-

solve as the world number two battled back from two sets down to defeat unseeded Spaniard Fernando Verdasco 4-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 7-5.

Murray, aiming to become the first British man to win the Wimbledon singles title since Fred Perry in 1936, will play Polish 24th seed Jerzy Janowicz for a place in the final for a second successive year.

Janowicz defeated compatriot Lukasz Kubot 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 to become Poland's first male Grand Slam semi-finalist.

A day of high drama started with Djokovic avenging his 2010 Wimbledon semi-final defeat against Berdych.

That was one of just two wins for the Czech seventh seed in their 15 meetings. And the losing streak always looked likely to continue once Djokovic took a tight first set in the tie-break on Court One.

On Centre Court, Del Potro, 24, was clearly struggling to move at times, but he gritted his teeth through two hours



Poland's Jerzy Janowicz celebrates beating Poland's Lukasz Kubot in their men's singles quarter-final match on day nine of the 2013 Wimbledon Championships tennis tournament at the All England Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on July 3, 2013.

and 16 minutes of gruelling action.

It will be del Potro's first Grand Slam semi-final appearance since his breakthrough triumph at the US Open four years ago.

Asked how close he was to pulling out, del Potro said:

"Really close because I felt a lot of pain in the beginning of the match.

Murray, beaten by Roger Federer in last year's final, has now won his last 16 matches on grass and will appear in his fifth successive Wimbledon semi-final after bringing Centre Court to their feet in celebration of his epic comeback.

Initially Murray, supported from the royal box by former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson, looked a shadow of the player who swept through his first four matches without dropping a set.

Verdasco, the world number 54, took advantage to leave the partisan crowd fearing a stunning upset.

But Murray responded superbly to his first serious test of the Championships, taking the third set to earn a lifeline before holding his nerve in the tense fourth and fifth sets.

Next up for Murray is the 22-year-old Janowicz, who fired 30 aces and 58 winners to see off world number 130 Kubot before breaking down in tears.

NBA: Ginobili decides to stay with S. Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) - The San Antonio Spurs have agreed on a two-year contract extension that will keep shooting guard Manu Ginobili with the NBA team for another two years, the Argentinian said Wednesday.

The 35-year-old Ginobili hinted at retirement during the playoffs which saw the Spurs make it all the way to the finals where they lost in seven games to the Miami Heat.

Financial terms of the deal were not announced by Ginobili, who averaged 11.8 points, 4.6 assists and 3.4 rebounds in 60 games this past season.

In the playoffs, he averaged 11.5 points, 5.0 assists and 3.7 rebounds.

Ginobili won a gold medal with the Argentine national team at the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

Football: Nantes sign Venezuela centre-back - club

NANTES (AFP) - Newly-promoted French Ligue 1 side Nantes have signed Venezuela centre-back Oswaldo Vizcarrondo on a three-year deal, the club announced Wednesday.

The towering defender, 29, joins from Mexico's Club America, although he spent last season on loan at Argentina's Atletico Lanus.

Vizcarrondo has played 45 times for his country and won the Venezuelan title four times with FC Caracas, while also tasting title success in Colombia with Once Caldas in 2010.



TRABZON (AFP) - Goalkeeper Lee Changgeun (L) of Korea Republic catches the ball as his teammate Sim Sangmin (R) fights with Jhon Cordoba of Colombia (C) during their round of 16 football match at the FIFA Under 20 World Cup at the Huseyin Avni Aker stadium in Trabzon yesterday. Korea won on penalties 8-7.



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Golf: Mickelson highlights Greenbrier field

WHITE ULPHUR SPRINGS, (AFP) - Phil Mickelson will take centre stage at the Greenbrier Classic this week as the four-time major winner makes his first start since finishing second at the US Open.

The 43-year-old American is not the defending champion, that distinction belongs to first-round playing partner Ted Potter, who won in a playoff last year.

Mickelson, who finished runner-up to Justin Rose at the US Open last month, has missed the cut in his two previous starts on the Old White course.

Americans Webb Simpson, Bubba Watson and Keegan



Bradley will also be competing, as will Michael Kim, the US Open's lowest-scoring amateur, who is playing on an exemption. This year's 156-player field features 63 PGA Tour winners.

The event also includes 13 of the top 30 players in the world and 13 major championship winners.

Australia's Stuart Appleby, Canada's Graham DeLaet, Vijay Singh of Fiji, England's Brian Davis and Ryo Ishikawa head up the international field.

Mickelson tees off Thursday in an all-pretty group that includes Potter and Watson, who is making his first appearance in the event.

Last year Potter missed a potential winning putt on the second playoff hole before making a birdie at the third

extra hole to defeat Troy Kelly and earn his first PGA Tour title.

Tom Watson, the 2014 USA Ryder Cup captain, is also taking part.

Former winner Scott Stallings (2011) is in a group with Billy Horshel and Boo Weekley. Horshel and Weekley are going for their second wins of 2013.

Louis Oosthuizen, a former British Open champ, is in a trio with Charles Howell and Ken Duke.

Oosthuizen, who is making his Greenbrier debut, has just one top 10 finish so far this year.

Bill Haas will try to carry momentum over from his victory at last week's ATT National.

Golf: McDowell seeks boost ahead of British Open

VERSAILLES (AFP) - Graeme McDowell is hoping a trip to France this week will give his golf game the boost it badly needs ahead of the British Open at Muirfield, Scotland which starts on July 18.

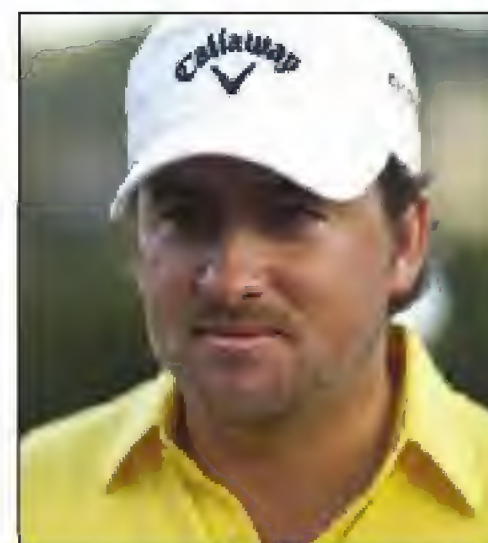
The 2010 US Open winner has signed up for the European Tour's French Open following another missed cut, this time on home turf at last week's Irish Open at Maynooth.

The early weekend at Carton House was the fifth in his last six strokeplay events for the 33-year-old.

He also missed the cut at The Masters, US Open and Players Championship this season, but on the plus side he can count two wins - at the RBC Heritage, the week after Augusta, and the Volvo World Match Play crown in Bulgaria.

"Obviously that Volvo World Match Play offsets some really average golf for me I suppose," McDowell told reporters at Le Golf National outside of Versailles.

"I feel like I went into the US Open a bit under golfed to be honest with you; (with) a few missed cuts here and there and playing a slightly reduced schedule this year.



McDowell is one of three players in the world's top 10 competing in Paris, the world number nine being joined by eighth-ranked Luke Donald of England and number five Matt Kuchar of the United States.

It was a tournament that Kuchar said he had been keen to compete in for a number of years.

"I've never been to France before and I don't know anybody that doesn't fantasise, romanticise about going to Paris. I talked to some players about the golf tournament here and they said it is one of the best courses they play all year," he said.

Germany's Marcel Siem will be the defending champion at Versailles.

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Baseball: Rangers gamble on minor league deal with Ramirez



ARLINGTON (AFP) - Controversial slugger Manny Ramirez, who left Taiwan's EDA Rhinos last month to pursue a possible return to Major League Baseball, could get his chance with the Texas Rangers. The Rangers inked Ramirez to a minor-league contract on Wednesday.

The 41-year-old dreadlocked Dominican was expected to arrive in Texas on Thursday and report to the Rangers' minor league affiliate Round Rock.

"It's a no-risk flyer in a lot of ways," Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said in comments posted on an mlb.com blog. "Our history, we like giving guys second chances."

"We know on and off the field the good and bad of Manny's career, but we're in-

clined to give him an opportunity here."

Ramirez began the season with the Rhinos of Taiwan's Chinese Professional Baseball League, where the 12-time All-Star drew massive fan support and hit a .352 with eight homers, 13 doubles and 43 RBI along with a .422 on-base percentage and .555 slugging percentage.

In an effort to keep him, the Rhinos said they doubled Ramirez's monthly salary to more than \$50,000, but the Dominican-born player told his Rhinos teammates that he missed his family.

Ramirez will have to overcome plenty of history to make it back to the big leagues.

He slugged 555 home runs with a .312 batting average in his Major League Baseball career and was named Most Valuable Player of the 2004 World Series won by the Boston Red Sox.

But he was also suspended for 50 games in 2009 after testing positive for human chorionic gonadotropin, a banned female fertility drug often used to mask performance-enhancing drug use.

In 2011 he retired rather than serve a 100-game suspension for a second violation of baseball's anti-drugs policy.

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Apartment search yields evidence against Aaron Hernandez

WRENTHAM - Court documents indicate the search of a secret flophouse leased by former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez has turned up what police said could be key evidence in the murder case against him.

Hernandez, 23, has been ac-

cused of first-degree murder in the death of Odin Lloyd, a 27-year-old acquaintance, and police continue to search for evidence as Hernandez, who was denied bail, sits in prison. The latest clues from the search of an apartment in Franklin, Mass., approxi-

mately 12 miles from the home he kept with his fiancée and infant daughter in North Attleborough, include boxes of firearm ammunition and a hooded white sweatshirt possibly worn by Hernandez on the night of the killing.

"This sweatshirt is consis-

tent in color and type with the sweatshirt that Hernandez is observed to be wearing on surveillance cameras the night of the homicide," State Police wrote in an affidavit.

Deeper details from Hernandez's past continued to emerge on Wednesday, as well.

Gainesville, Fla., police released the report of a 2007 double shooting outside a nightclub for which multiple members of the University of Florida football team - including Hernandez - were questioned. Hernandez was 17 at the time.

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